



SAMPLE MATERIAL

Mission Statement, Five Pillars, and Expected Schoolwide Learning Results (ESLRs)

Waterford High School, California

Topic: Turning Around Chronically Low-Performing Schools

Practice: Improving Instruction

This document contains Waterford High School's mission statement, Five Pillars and Expected Schoolwide Learning Results (ESLRs). The school's mission statement was decided upon collaboratively by the staff as part of the turnaround process. The school's vision is to strive toward excellence in classroom instruction and become a demonstration site. During recent years, Waterford High School fulfilled its vision, and educators from around the state of California visit the school to learn about the school's practices.

The five pillars: Pursuing Excellence, Personalization, Purpose Driven, Standards-Based Curriculum and Instruction, and Block Schedule aim to build a data-driven culture in which all students become proficient in all standards of the content areas taught. Time is regarded as an important resource, and time on task is regarded as one of the indicators of instructional excellence. Therefore, the five pillars, and especially block scheduling, aim to increase time on task.

The four ESLRs: Communicate Effectively, Achieve Academically, Talent Contribution, and Self-Direction, address four different areas of growth to which the school culture aims to contribute. As part of the graduation requirements, students need to demonstrate growth in all four ESLRs. For example, students need to demonstrate that they have learned how to communicate effectively with school staff or through writing, attained academic achievements in a number of content areas, participated in a community service project, and established academic or career-related goals that they have started working toward, for example, by applying to college.

WATERFORD HIGH SCHOOL MISSION STATEMENT

Our Mission is to provide an excellent comprehensive educational program for the students of Waterford High School.

VISION

To become wholly focused on:

student learning,

teacher-directed instruction, and

professional collaboration, so that Waterford High School serves as a demonstration site for other educational professionals.

ASSUMPTIONS / BELIEFS / VALUES

The mission is achieved by commitment to the following:

- High quality teacher-directed instruction raises student achievement.
- Academic content standards and assessments offer clear direction for instruction.
- An organizational culture characterized by professionalism promotes excellence.
- Outstanding Curricular, Co-Curricular and Extra-Curricular programs advance student development.

PILLARS

Pillar 1: Pursuing Excellence

Improve instruction, programs and operations so that students achieve countywide and statewide excellence in academics (API, AYP and college admission), athletics and the Arts.

Pillar 2: Personalization

Ensure that students become well-known by faculty and staff, and commit to professional peer relationships among teachers, administrators and classified employees.

Pillar 3: Purpose Driven

The mission is advanced through data-driven decisions, teacher direct instruction, and a commitment to teaching as a personal calling. Each student graduates with choices.

Pillar 4: Standards Based Curriculum and Instruction

The California Content Standards are embraced when seeking and developing curriculum and when preparing well-crafted lessons.

Pillar 5: Block Schedule

Time is utilized as a resource maximizing productivity. Time on task and student engagement is optimized.

EXPECTED SCHOOLWIDE LEARNING RESULTS (ESLRs)

Communicate Effectively: Expressing ideas orally and with written language.

Achieve Academically: In the classroom and on state and local assessments.

Talent Contribution: Providing service to the school and community.

Self-Direction: Demonstrated by setting and achieving goals.